

Appln No. 09/975,521

Amdt date February 16, 2005

Reply to Office action of February 9, 2005

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 7 as follows:

FIGS. 1-4 show embodiments of a foot-to-floor toy vehicle model. This model is intended for children between the ages of 12 months and 36 months. FIG. 1 shows an embodiment of the vehicle chassis 12 for the foot-to-floor model. The vehicle chassis 12 includes features and sites for attaching a steering column 24, a front axle assembly 26 and a rear axle assembly 28. In the alternative, any or each of these components can be integrally formed to the vehicle chassis 12. The vehicle chassis 12 can contain an aperture 21 for housing the steering column 24. The steering column extends both above the chassis 12 for attachment to a steering wheel 30 and below the chassis 12 for attachment to the front axle assembly 26. The steering column attaches to the front axle assembly 26, for instance, utilizing a hook 32 which causes the front ~~assemble~~-assembly 26 to rotate upon a rotation of the steering wheel 30. Since the intended user for this toy vehicle model is a child in the range of 12 to 36 months, the steering wheel 30 can be a T-bar steering wheel 30a. For very young children, the T-bar steering wheel 30a is easier to manipulate than the more traditional round steering wheel, such as steering wheel 30. The front axle assembly 26 can further be secured to the chassis 12 utilizing screws 34 or other appropriate securing mechanisms.

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Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 18 as follows:

The body module 14, or body modules (in the case where the body module 14 comprises separate body modules such as front, rear and side modules 16, 18, 20, and 22) may be additionally secured to the chassis 12 utilizing a hinged plug 52. For instance, in one embodiment, the chassis 12 contains a slot 54 into which the ~~fa~~ mounting portion 55 of the hinged plug 52 fits. The body module 14, in turn, comprises a rotatable female plug 57 which forms a rotatable press fit coupling with the hinged plug 52. When such an arrangement is utilized on the front body module 16, the female plug 57 of the front body module 16 may be secured to the hinged plug 52 of the chassis 12 while a back portion of the front body module 16 is rotated away from the chassis 12 to simulate the motion of an opening of a hood of a typical adult-sized vehicle. Rotating the front body module 16 away from the chassis 12 allows an attachment site 41 (shown in FIG. 1) to be accessible for an attachment of an engine 43 (shown in FIG. 1), or another vehicle accessory. The hinged plug 52 and the rotatable female plug 57 may similarly be used to rotatably secure the rear body module 18 to the chassis 12. In the same manner as is described above, the rear body module 18 can be rotated away from the vehicle chassis 12 to expose an attachment site, in this case attachment site 45 (shown in FIG. 1), wherein the engine 43 (shown in FIG. 1) or another vehicle accessory may be attached.

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Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 14, line 15 as follows:

The left and right side body modules 20 and 22 may ~~comprises~~ comprise adjacently positioned attachment mechanisms which are of a different shape, size or style to prevent the side modules 20 and 22 from being assembled up-side-down or backward onto the chassis 12. For example, referring to FIGS. 1 and 3A, the side body modules 20 and 22 may comprises pegs or similar structures which have different shapes, such as a square peg 56 and a round peg 58 which press fit into a square aperture 60 and a round aperture 62, respectively, in the chassis 12. Although pegs have been described, any of the attachment mechanisms described in FIGS. 2A-2I can be adjacently positioned on the left or right side body module 20 or 22 to prevent an incorrect assembly of the modules 20 and 22 onto the chassis 12, as long as the attachment mechanisms used are of a different shape, size or style. An example embodiment of an assembled foot-to-floor vehicle is shown in FIG. 3B, in this case the foot-to-floor vehicle resembles a sports car.